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Chevron Corporation Law Department Patent and Licensing Unit P.O. Box 6006 San Ramon, CA 94583-0806			THAI, CANG G	
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			3629	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed on 08/24/2005 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 3-11, 13-65, and 67-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,405,364 (BOWMAN-AMUAH).

As for claim 1, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses a method of product development and commercialization comprising:

- (a) determining customer requirements for a chemical product {Column 2, Lines 19-21, wherein this reads over “requirements are specified for both an system to be built and an implementation strategy to fulfill the requirements};
- (b) determining the return on investment of developing said product per said customer requirements {Column 2, Lines 21-22, wherein this reads over “the system is built according to the implementation strategy”};

- (c) setting final requirements {Column 2, Lines 22-24, wherein this reads over “performance and maintenance of the system are improved by using information relating to the previous system”};
- (d) approving said final requirements {Column 36, Lines 46-49, wherein this reads over “the overall objective of design is to transform functional and technical specifications into a blueprint of the system, one that will effectively guide construction and testing”};
- (e) selecting a base technology {Column 36, Lines 32-35, wherein this reads over “the success of the entire design effort depends on the quality of the work performed to gather, document, communicate, and analyze requirements in the early stage”};
- (f) modifying said base technology to meet said final requirements {Column 55, Lines 7-8, wherein this reads over “each of these groups is also assigned specific read/write/delete/modify authority”};
- (g) approving said base technology selection and said modifications {Column 40, Lines 40-43, wherein this reads over “it is vital that those responsible for usability and target user groups are involved in regular reviews as the system is being developed”};
- (h) testing said modified base technology to verify it meets said final requirements {Column 42, Lines 42-44, wherein this reads over “the assembly test tests the interaction of related components to ensure that the components, when integrated, function properly”};

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- (i) approving said testing of said modified base technology {Column 42, Lines 56-58, wherein this reads over “component and assembly testing ensures that all transactions, database, and conversations flows function accurately”};
- (j) checking compliance with at least a portion of the relevant health and safety laws and regulations of at least a portion of the jurisdictions where the modified base technology will be made, transported, or sold; performing any required compliance tests, and electronically providing the results of any required tests to a government agency in the format approved by the government agency {Column 59, Lines 40-43, wherein this reads over “configuration management tools to help control versioning of code, changes to code, and migration of code (and accompanying design and test documentation) through the development and testing environment”};
- (k) approving said assurance of compliance {Column 133, Lines 65-67, wherein this reads over “the risk of adopting this approach must be addressed thoroughly, and should be approved by senior management”}; and
- (l) manufacturing/commercializing said modified base technology {Column 29, Lines 32-34, wherein this reads over “a pipeline consists of all the necessary development and testing stages required to deliver a piece of software to production”}.

- (m) storing all data entered, retrieved, processed, created, stored, or modified in one or more central or distributed mutually accessible computer readable databases {Column 12, Lines 41-42, wherein this reads over "database administration-this is part of the architecture team responsibilities"}; and
- (n) sending an electronic mail notification to a participant in the method or an interested person upon completion of at least one of the steps of the method; wherein the electronic mail notification is controlled by a software code portion listener module which listens for completion of a step being stored in the database, and upon such occurrence of the completion being stored, the listener module passes an instruction to an e-mail application to send an pre-determined message to a participant {See Fig. 2, Element 238};
- (o) immediately prior to each approval step (d), (g), (i), or (k) above, locking portions of the database sufficient to prevent continuation of the process without completing the respective approval step and unlocking the locked portions of the database after the respective approval step is completed {See Fig. 2, Element 246}.

As for claim 3, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising sending an electronic mail notification to a participant in the method or an interested person upon completion of one of the steps of the method {Column 45, Lines

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54-55, wherein this reads over "E-mail provides the capability of sending and receiving messages electronically"}.

As for claim 4, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 2, wherein all participants in the method and authorized persons may access at least a portion of said database {Column 45, Lines 57-62, wherein this reads over "E-mail is a convenient toll for distributing information to a group of people, as it has the advantage of delivering content directly to the 'mailbox' of each individual, rather than relying on individuals to access a central data repository in order to retrieve the information"}.

As for claim 5, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 4, wherein said access includes a plurality of pre-defined views, thereby permitting quick information sorting {Column 46, Lines 23-25, wherein this reads over "teamware provides the ability to capture and share information across a project through the use of common-access, structure database"}.

As for claim 6, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 4, wherein said access to said database is available globally from any personal computer having installed thereon a client application configured to perform database management system functions with said database and having a network connection configured to allow communication between said client application and said database {Column 2, Lines 5-7, wherein this reads over "the communication model under the conventional Web environment provides a very limited level of interaction between clients and servers"}.

As for claim 7, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 1, wherein the steps are performed sequentially such that a later step is not performed until all earlier steps are completed {Column 61, Lines 48-50, wherein this reads over “version control tools allow systematic storage of information about who makes changes in what order so that the evolution of the system can be tracked”}.

As for claim 8, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 7, further comprising locking at least a portion of said steps prior to the completion of all earlier steps and unlocking said steps upon completion of all earlier steps, thereby preventing entering a step out of order without authorization {Column 65, Lines 33-37, wherein this reads over “data migration control tools manage multiple versions of the database and its data to ensure that accurate data and structure are maintained in the environment, and to ensure that versions of application code and database are deployed consistently”}.

As for claim 9, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising locking at least a portion of said steps after their completion, thereby preventing revision of said steps without authorization {Column 61, Lines 34-36, wherein this reads over “version control tools control access to source code as it is developed and tested and allow multiple versions to be created, maintained, or retrieved”}.

As for claim 10, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising terminating the method at any step, wherein said termination prevents further revision of any step in the method {Column 102, Lines 12-14, wherein this reads

over “to minimize testing errors when creating component and assembly test data, follow the guidelines provided by the AC Methods job aid for quality test data”}.

As for claim 11, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 1 further comprising a step to maintain version control of said approved final requirements in step (d), said approved base technology selection and modifications in step (g), or said approved qualification of modified base technology in step (i) {Column 102, Lines 42-46, wherein this reads over “Test Data Manipulation tools are used to create original test data and, sometimes, to modify existing test data, such modifications may be needed to process a change in the database schema and to correct intermediate results in order to complete a test cycle”}.

As for claim 13, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising recording in said database action items for completing one or more steps of the method, electronically notifying the responsible persons of said actions items, and tracking completion of said action items {Column 65, Lines 3-4, wherein this reads over “this capability provides useful tracking across the complete life cycle of a change request”}.

As for claim 14, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 1, wherein one or more of said steps is at least in part completed by selecting items from a menu, list box, drop down list, or other selection device available in a personal computer graphical user interface, thereby reducing typing time and errors {Column 5, Lines 19-21, wherein this reads over “objects can represent elements of the computer-user environment such as windows, menus or graphic objects”}.

As for claim 15, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 1, further comprising plotting the actual versus planned progress of said steps on a timeline, for measuring and improving performance and productivity of practicing said method {Column 14, Lines 19-22, wherein this reads over “the release management team is responsible for - planning the capability release design and development effort, based on the capability development approach and timeline}.

As for claim 16, which has the same limitations as in claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 1.

As for claim 17, which has the same limitations as in claim 2, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 2.

As for claim 18, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 16, wherein said access to said database is available globally from any personal computer having suitable client software installed and suitable network connectivity {Column 1, Lines 29-31, wherein this reads over “millions of computers, from low end personal computers to high-end super computers are coupled to the Internet”}.

As for claim 19, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 16, wherein all participants in the method and authorized persons may access at least a portion of said database, and the graphical user interface presented matches the person’s type of database access {Column 50, Lines 17-19, wherein this reads over “Web-based access control – enables organizations to control and manage user access to web based applications with restricted access”}.

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As for claim 20, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 16, wherein said access includes a plurality of pre-defined views, thereby permitting quick information sorting and searching {Column 49, Lines 1-2, wherein this reads over "real-time tools integration is most commonly provided by vendors who deliver integrated environment"}.

As for claim 21, which has the same limitations as in claim 7, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 7.

As for claim 22, which has the same limitations as in claim 8, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 8.

As for claim 23, which has the same limitations as in claim 9, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 9.

As for claim 24, which has the same limitations as in claim 11, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 11.

As for claim 25, which has the same limitations as in claim 10, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 10.

As for claim 26, which has the same limitations as in claim 3, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 3.

As for claim 27, which has the same limitations as in claim 12, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 12.

As for claim 28, which has the same limitations as in claim 3, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 3.

As for claim 29, which has the same limitations as in claim 7, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 7.

As for claim 30, which has the same limitations as in claim 13, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 13.

As for claim 31, which has the same limitations as in claim 14, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reasons set forth in claim 14.

As for claim 32, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 16, wherein database users can enter new items in menus, list boxes, drop down lists or other selection devices after which these new items become part of the selection lists for instances of said method {Column 93, Lines 46-48, wherein this reads over "graphical representation tools are used to display important system information in a form, which is easier to assimilate"}.

As for claim 33, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 16, wherein at list a portion of said steps comprise copying template forms that are stored in the database thereby insuring data consistency {Column 67, Lines 64-66, wherein this reads over "the environment may support a high volume of media files, which must be considered in the backup/restore plans"}.

As for claim 34, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 33, wherein said template forms are revisable at any time by authorized administrators and wherein upon said revision the template forms become immediately available for use by future instances of said method {Column 96, Lines 38-39, wherein this reads over "automatic layout, which indents code depending on its logical level (e.g. loops, conditionals etc.)"}.

As for claim 35, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 16, wherein reference forms are stored in the database and are made available to users thereby providing assistance in completing said steps {Column 67, Lines 66-67, wherein this reads over “storage capacity planning should allow for the typically increased size of these file types”}.

As for claim 36, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 35, wherein said reference forms are revisable at any time by authorized administrators and wherein upon said revision the reference forms become immediately available for use by future instances of said method {Column 96, Lines 38-39, wherein this reads over “automatic layout, which indents code depending on its logical level (e.g. loops, conditionals etc.)”}.

As for claim 37, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 16, wherein administration of the database comprises providing, changing or revoking user access, maintaining items in various selection lists, maintaining template forms, reference forms and help forms, 18 and wherein said administration is performed only by authorized persons {Column 50, Lines 18-20, wherein this reads over “web-based access control-enables organizations to control and manage user access to web based applications with restricted access”}.

As for claim 38, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 37, further comprising performing said administration in a graphical user interface and wherein said administration does not require knowledge of computing languages {Column 1, Lines 55-57, wherein this reads over “because the user does not have to be technically

trained and the browser is pleasant to use, it has the potential of opening up the Internet to the masses"}.

As for claim 39, which has the same limitation as in claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 1.

As for claim 40, which has the same limitation as in claim 16, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 16.

As for claim 41, which has the same limitation as in claim 2, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 2.

As for claim 42, which has the same limitation as in claim 18, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 18.

As for claim 43, which has the same limitation as in claim 19, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 19.

As for claim 44, which has the same limitation as in claim 20, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 20.

As for claim 45, which has the same limitation as in claim 21, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 21.

As for claim 46, which has the same limitation as in claim 22, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 22.

As for claim 47, which has the same limitation as in claim 23, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 23.

As for claim 48, which has the same limitation as in claim 25, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 25.

As for claim 49, which has the same limitation as in claim 26, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 26.

As for claim 50, which has the same limitation as in claim 27, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 27.

As for claim 51, which has the same limitation as in claim 28, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 28.

As for claim 52, which has the same limitation as in claim 29, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 29.

As for claim 53, which has the same limitation as in claim 30, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 30.

As for claim 54, which has the same limitation as in claim 37, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 37.

As for claim 55, which has the same limitation as in claim 38, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 38.

As for claim 56, which has the same limitation as in claim 1, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 1.

As for claim 57, which has the same limitation as in claim 18, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 18.

As for claim 58, which has the same limitation as in claim 19, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 19.

As for claim 59, which has the same limitation as in claim 22, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 22.

As for claim 60, which has the same limitation as in claim 26, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 26.

As for claim 61, which has the same limitation as in claim 28, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 28.

As for claim 62, which has the same limitation as in claim 13, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 13.

As for claim 63, which has the same limitation as in claim 14, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 14.

As for claim 64, which has the same limitation as in claim 37, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 37.

As for claim 65, which has the same limitation as in claim 38, therefore, it is rejected for the similar reason set forth in claim 38.

As for claim 67, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses a product development and commercialization management information system comprising:

- (a) a collaborative work space, wherein multiple participants can individually and jointly work on a project {Column 14, Lines 36-39, wherein this reads over "design, construction, configuration, and environment management team members would make up a typical release management team, each providing input based on their own perspective"}:
 - (1) configured at least partially automating workflow of chemical product development and commercialization projects from determining customer requirements and financial analysis of project

- viability, through determining a base technology, determining any needed modifications of said base technology, and testing said modified base technology to verify compliance with customer requirements, and configured for adding/changing the participants in a project {Columns 13-14, Lines 66-67 & 1-3, wherein this reads over “the configuration management team is responsible for defining the approach the program takes to deal with scope, change control, version control, and migration control, and for putting in place the policies, processes, and procedures required to implement this approach”};
- (2) configured for assigning, tracking and providing notification of tasks relating to a chemical product development project or group of projects {Column 14, Lines 20-22, wherein this reads over “planning the capability release design and development effort, based on the capability development approach and timeline”};
- (3) configured for providing a collaborative work space comprising a secure/searchable communication repository linked to chemical product development projects or logical grouping of projects and their tasks, for communications with and between project participants and customers, configured for recording, channeling, and archiving said communications {Column 14, Lines 23-26, wherein this reads over “measuring and monitoring progress using

established processes to ensure that a capability release is delivered on time, within budget, and that it meets or exceeds expectations”};

- (4) configured for financial tracking and/or forecasting for a project or a logical grouping of projects {Column 14, Lines 64-67, wherein this reads over “the problem management team is responsible for defining the problem tracking and solution process, and for providing tools and procedures to support the solution process”};
 - (5) configured for importing lab data {Column 14, Lines 30-31, wherein this reads over “ensuring that resources are used effectively across projects for the release”};
 - (6) configured for providing a secure and searchable document repository linked to projects or logical groupings of projects, wherein said documents are in final format {Column 21, Lines 26-28, wherein this reads over “when supporting specific kinds of repository analysis, the repository management team can provide custom reports or folder management (204)”}; and
- (b) a computer readable database:
- (1) configured for storing a chemical product development project's history and details, said history and details comprising the types of data, time schedules, status of all steps in the project, contact information, results of all steps in the project, and documents and

- information supporting all steps in the project {Column 20, Lines 65-67, wherein this reads over “this daily effort is crucial to avoid a massive cleanup, which would be necessary if the repository manager ever lost control of the repository”}; and
- (2) configured for searching said stored history and details and for generating reports from same {Column 21, Lines 2-5, wherein this reads over “these standards can form the basis for a repository validation program, which can run through the entire repository and report on detected deviations from standards”};
 - (3) configured for sending an electronic mail notification to pre-determined persons upon updating of the database; wherein the electronic mail notification is controlled by a software code portion listener module which listens for updating of the database, and upon such occurrence of the updating, the listener module passes an instruction to an e-mail application to send an pre-determined message to the pre-determined persons {See Fig. 2, Element 238};
- (c) a computer network for connecting said collaborative workspace and computer readable database {Column 1, Lines 27-29, wherein this reads over “the Internet is a worldwide interconnection of computer networks that communicate using a common protocol”}; and
- (d) means for providing for different levels of secure access for different users {Column 68, Lines 22-26, wherein this reads over “security tools are

required in the development environment to ensure against unauthorized access by individuals and system process, to limit damages caused by such unauthorized access, and to audit access the environment services”}.

As for claim 68, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the system of claim 67, wherein said network comprises the Internet {Column 1, Lines 29-31, wherein this reads over “millions of computers, from low end personal computers to high-end super computers are coupled to the Internet”}.

As for claim 69, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the system of claim 67, wherein said collaborative workspace comprises a client application comprising a web browser {Column 50, Lines 18-20, wherein this reads over “Web-based access control – enables organizations to control and manage user access to web based applications with restricted access”}.

As for claim 70, BOWMAN-AMUAH discloses the method of claim 16, wherein the checking compliance step further comprises electronically providing the results of such step to a government agency in a format approved by the government agency {See Fig. 2A, Element 264}.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 08/24/2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

BOWMAN-AMUAH teaches the product development system in Column 2, Lines 31-38, wherein this reads over “the system to be built and the implementation strategy

to fulfill the requirements may be carried out using tools such as data modeling tools, process modeling tools, event modeling tools, performance modeling tools, object modeling tools, component modeling tools, reuse support tools, prototyping tools, application logic design tools, database design tools, presentation design tools, communication design, and usability test tools” would encompass over the chemical /product development.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cang (James) G. Thai whose telephone number is (571) 272-6499. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 AM - 3:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on (571) 272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

CGT
11/08/2005


DEANT. NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER